

Comment to FCC regarding relaxing of media ownership laws.

Dear FCC,

I understand there is a plan to vote privately and without public comment on relaxing ownership rules of media properties. This appears to be a special revision of the rules to allow Rupert Murdoch to purchase the *L.A. Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*, the foremost newspapers in two of America's largest cities. Murdoch currently owns two television stations in both markets.

I do not see how this relaxation of rules benefits the American people or furthers freedom of the press. Instead, it advances the already egregious process of monopoly and consolidation that is leading to a profound lack of diversity in the news. To change these rules to benefit someone such as Murdoch, who has proven himself in the recently unfolding scandals as being without ethics or scruples and as someone who actively works against truth and justice—*why?* In what way will this help the citizens of this country have fair access to unbiased news? And how will news sources remain affordable when competition is erased through consolidation? It sets a terrible precedent likely to be extended to future consolidation attempts by other media conglomerates.

I urge you to drop this plan and instead tighten existing rules to further limit consolidation. We need a diverse and free media, and I would expect the FCC to understand that as its mandate and its responsibility to the citizens.

Sincerely,

Ms. Iskra Johnson

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